

GIBSON MEMORIAL UNITED CHURCH
FREDERICTON, N.B.

December 24, 2018 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve

WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP[†]

*denotes standing for those who are able

PRELUDE WELCOME ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE APPROACH GOD

“What’s Christmas about, if not hope and giving a hand where it’s needed? Setting things right, before the end of the old year.”
...Anne Perry

“O Holy Night”
sung by Charles MacTavish

***LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE:**

One: Come with joy this holy night. Come receive again the words of “good news of great joy for all the people” (Luke 2:10b)

All: **For unto us is born this day in Bethlehem Christ our Saviour**

Together: **“A Candle Is Burning”** verse 5 6

One: As family and friends let us come together,

All: **to receive Christ’s light of hope, peace, joy and love. Amen.**

***CHRISTMAS CAROL: “O Come, All Ye Faithful” 60**

CHRISTMAS PRAYER: (begin with silence) God of the Shepherds keeping watch in the night, help us to hear the Angel’s good news of great joy: a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord, has been born and once again we find him wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger. May we like the Shepherds before us, keep watch in the night, and let us not be afraid of the dark. For there you are God, holding our hands, as we walk with one another, believing that the light will shine again. May the wonder and awe that filled the eyes of the Shepherds be awakened within us tonight. May it lead us to renewed awareness and appreciation of whatever we too easily take for granted. And may the bonds of love for one another be strengthened as we heed your call to do your work of kindness and justice in this world. Amen.

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***CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS CAROL: “Away in a Manger” 69**

CHILDREN’S STORY: “Everyone Is Invited to Christmas”

***CHRISTMAS CAROL: “Go, Tell It on the Mountain” 43**

WE LISTEN FOR GOD’S WORD

SCRIPTURE: Luke 2:1-19

A CHRISTMAS STORY: “The Kindness of Strangers”

SOLO: “Mary, Did You Know?” Tyler Seymour

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD’S PRAYER (sung) 959

SOLO: “Let It Be Christmas” Tyler Seymour

OFFERTORY and PRESENTATION OF OUR GIFTS
(Ministry of Music with Heather Fyffe)

***CHRISTMAS CAROL: “Joy to the World” (verses 1 & 2) 59**

***THE OFFERTORY PRAYER:** God of Bethlehem, help us to recognize your presence in this world. We need you to inspire us to look beyond our own comfortable, cozy spaces to find you dwelling among the many who are lost, lonely, ill, neglected and forgotten. Help us to celebrate the Holy One’s coming to dwell in our midst by sharing your love and kindness today and every day. Open our hearts and hands to embrace all people in our hearts this Christmas. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN: "Silent Night, Holy Night"**

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(Candles and glow sticks are lit.)

Silent night! Holy night!**All is calm, all is bright****round yon virgin mother and child.****Holy infant so tender and mild,****sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.****Silent night! Holy night!****Shepherds quake at the sight:****glories stream from heaven afar,****heavenly hosts sing Hallelujah,****Christ the Saviour is born, Christ the Saviour is born.****Silent night! Holy night!****Son of God, love's pure light****radiant beams from thy holy face,****with the dawn of redeeming grace,****Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.*****COMMISSIONING and BENEDICTION*****SUNG BLESSING:****Go now in peace. Never be afraid.****God will go with you each hour of everyday.****Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true.****Know He will guide you in all you do.****Go now in love, and show you believe.****Reach out to others so all the world can see.****God will be there watching from above.****Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.****Amen. Amen. Amen.**

(Please extinguish your candle following the sung blessing and, as you exit, place it in the metal containers provided)

POSTLUDE